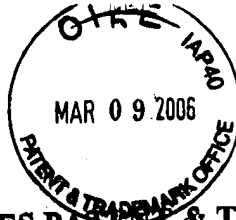


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NO. 4058 P. 4

Appl. No. 09/773,665  
Reply to Office Action of: September 12, 2005



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 09/773,665  
Applicant: Donald B. Johnson et al.  
Filed: February 2, 2001  
Title: MASKED DIGITAL SIGNATURES  
Art Unit: 2135  
Examiner: KLIMACH, Paula W.  
Docket No.: 14774

Mail Stop AF  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Sir:

This is further to the Office Action dated September 12, 2005. Applicant advises that a Request for Continued Examination along with a request for a three-month extension of time are being filed concurrently herewith. Applicant wishes to present the following remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims:** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks:** begin on page 4 of this paper.

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